

Effective 5/10/2016

Part 16
School Resource Officers

53A-11-1601 Title.

This part is known as "School Resource Officers."

Enacted by Chapter 165, 2016 General Session

53A-11-1602 Definitions.

As used in this section:

- (1) "Governing authority" means:
 - (a) for a school district, the local school board;
 - (b) for a charter school, the governing board; or
 - (c) for the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, the State Board of Education.
- (2) "Law enforcement agency" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.
- (3) "Local education agency" or "LEA" means:
 - (a) a school district;
 - (b) a charter school; or
 - (c) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.
- (4) "School resource officer" or "SRO" means a law enforcement officer, as defined in Section 53-13-103, who contracts with or whose law enforcement agency contracts with an LEA to provide law enforcement services for the LEA.

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53A-11-1603 School resource officer training -- Curriculum.

- (1) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the State Board of Education shall make rules that prepare and make available a training program for school principals and school resource officers to attend.
- (2) To create the curriculum and materials for the training program described in Subsection (1), the State Board of Education shall:
 - (a) work in conjunction with the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice created in Section 63M-7-201;
 - (b) solicit input from local school boards, charter school governing boards, and the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind;
 - (c) solicit input from local law enforcement and other interested community stakeholders; and
 - (d) consider the current United States Department of Education recommendations on school discipline and the role of a school resource officer.
- (3) The training program described in Subsection (1) may include training on the following:
 - (a) childhood and adolescent development;
 - (b) responding age-appropriately to students;
 - (c) working with disabled students;
 - (d) techniques to de-escalate and resolve conflict;
 - (e) cultural awareness;
 - (f) restorative justice practices;

- (g) identifying a student exposed to violence or trauma and referring the student to appropriate resources;
- (h) student privacy rights;
- (i) negative consequences associated with youth involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems;
- (j) strategies to reduce juvenile justice involvement; and
- (k) roles of and distinctions between a school resource officer and other school staff who help keep a school secure.

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53A-11-1604 Contracts between an LEA and law enforcement for school resource officer services -- Requirements.

- (1) An LEA may contract with a law enforcement agency or an individual to provide school resource officer services at the LEA if the LEA's governing authority reviews and approves the contract.
- (2) If an LEA contracts with a law enforcement agency or an individual to provide SRO services at the LEA, the LEA's governing authority shall require in the contract:
 - (a) an acknowledgment by the law enforcement agency or the individual that an SRO hired under the contract shall:
 - (i) provide for and maintain a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment in a school;
 - (ii) act as a positive role model to students;
 - (iii) work to create a cooperative, proactive, and problem-solving partnership between law enforcement and the LEA;
 - (iv) emphasize the use of restorative approaches to address negative behavior; and
 - (v) at the request of the LEA, teach a vocational law enforcement class;
 - (b) a description of the shared understanding of the LEA and the law enforcement agency or individual regarding the roles and responsibilities of law enforcement and the LEA to:
 - (i) maintain safe schools;
 - (ii) improve school climate; and
 - (iii) support educational opportunities for students;
 - (c) a designation of student offenses that the SRO shall confer with the LEA to resolve, including an offense that:
 - (i) is a minor violation of the law; and
 - (ii) would not violate the law if the offense was committed by an adult;
 - (d) a designation of student offenses that are administrative issues that an SRO shall refer to a school administrator for resolution;
 - (e) a detailed description of the rights of a student under state and federal law with regard to:
 - (i) searches;
 - (ii) questioning; and
 - (iii) information privacy;
 - (f) a detailed description of:
 - (i) job duties;
 - (ii) training requirements; and
 - (iii) other expectations of the SRO and school administration in relation to law enforcement at the LEA;

- (g) that an SRO who is hired under the contract and the principal at the school where an SRO will be working, or the principal's designee, will jointly complete the SRO training described in Section 53A-11-1603; and
- (h) if the contract is between an LEA and a law enforcement agency, that:
 - (i) both parties agree to jointly discuss SRO applicants; and
 - (ii) the law enforcement agency will accept feedback from an LEA about an SRO's performance.

Enacted by Chapter 165, 2016 General Session